



## **NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SPINAL CORD RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS**

### **News Release**

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For Release: Commissioner Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D.

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New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research Awards \$2.1 Million in Grants

TRENTON – The New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research (NJCSCR) approved more than \$2.1 million in grants for spinal cord injury research in its second round of grants for fiscal 2005. Together with over \$2.6 million granted in an earlier round the total awarded by the Commission in Fiscal Year 2005 exceeded \$4.8 million.

The NJCSCR approved ten applications for funding in the December 2004 round, including \$280,000 in Post Doctoral and Graduate Fellowships and more than \$1.9 million in individual research grants. The NJCSCR funds research activities that hold the promise of developing effective interventions and cures for paralysis and other consequences of spinal cord injury and disease.

Institutions receiving Fiscal Year 2005 funding included Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey; the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in East Orange; and Princeton University.

"In its first five years, the Commission has awarded more than \$15.1 million to expand New Jersey's research efforts in support of the more than 6,000 people with spinal cord damage in our state," said Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D., Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. "These grants will support the growth of New Jersey's cutting edge medical research, continuing to make our state a draw for some of the best minds and most innovative companies in the world."

The New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord research was created in 2000 with the mission to stimulate original spinal cord research in New Jersey and recruit new scientists to the field through the funding of research projects and fellowships at qualifying institutions throughout the State. The most recent grant awards were issued on May 19, 2005 and will be distributed to grantees this fall.

The NJCSCR offers a wide range of grants opportunities including: one-and two-year individual research grants; post-doctoral and graduate fellowships; one-time grants to support start-up costs for spinal cord research facilities in New Jersey; and five-year chair grants supporting New Jersey Commission Professorships for spinal cord research.

These are exciting times in the world of Spinal Cord Injury Research, as we rapidly move closer to significant breakthroughs in the treatment and cure of these devastating injuries according to Dr. Steven M. Reich, Assistant Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, newly elected Chairman of the Commission. “Inevitably, a cure will be found, and the New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research is dedicated to vigorously supporting the research in our State that will turn this dream into a reality.”

The latest information on the accomplishments of the New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord research can be found in the 2005 Annual Report.

To apply for future research grants, access grant applications, find out application deadlines, and to obtain additional information on the New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research, visit the NJCSCR website at [www.state.nj.us/health/spinalcord/](http://www.state.nj.us/health/spinalcord/). Written inquiries can be directed to: The New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research, PO Box 360, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. For telephone inquiries, please call 609-292-4055.

The following is a complete list of all Cycle 2005A grant recipients:

### **INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS:**

#### **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Yasuhiro Maeda, M.D.**

Basic Science

Proposal

Grant Award – \$393,800

Proposal Title: Effect of Erythropoietin Therapy on Acute Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury and Mechanism of Action

#### **Contact Information:**

Yasuhiro Maeda, M.D.

Veterans Biomedical Research Institute, Inc.

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey–NJMS

385 Tremont Avenue

East Orange, New Jersey 07018

973-676-1000

[yasuhiromaeda@hotmail.com](mailto:yasuhiromaeda@hotmail.com)

#### **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Frank V. Castello, M.D.**

Clinical Science

Proposal

Grant Award - \$267,498

Proposal Title: The Effect of FES on Children with Spinal Cord Dysfunction

#### **Contact Information:**

Frank V. Castello, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey–RWJMS

Medical Director, Children’s Specialized Hospital

675 Hoes Lane

Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

1-888-244-5373

[fcastello@childrens-specialized.org](mailto:fcastello@childrens-specialized.org)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Ronald P. Hart, Ph.D.**

Basic Science

Proposal

Grant Award – \$185,573

Proposal Title: Differentiation of Therapeutic Stem Cells Using Micro RNAs

**Contact Information:**

Ronald P. Hart, Ph.D.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

W. M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience

604 Allison Road, D-251, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854-8082

732-445-1783

[rhart@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:rhart@rci.rutgers.edu)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Hosea F. S. Huang, Ph.D.**

Basic Science

Proposal

Grant Award - \$390,602

Proposal Title: Preservation of Sperm Functions after Spinal Cord Injury

**Contact Information:**

Hosea F. S. Huang, Ph.D.

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

New Jersey Medical School

185 S. Orange Avenue

Newark, New Jersey 07103

973-972-7766

[huanghf@umdnj.edu](mailto:huanghf@umdnj.edu)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Randall D. McKinnon, Ph.D.**

Basic Science

Proposal

Grant Award – \$360,690

Proposal Title: Netrin Directed Glial Migration

**Contact Information:**

Randall D. McKinnon, Ph.D.

Department of Neurosurgery

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

675 Hoes Lane, RM S-225

Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

732-235-4419

[mckinnon@umdnj.edu](mailto:mckinnon@umdnj.edu)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Melitta Schachner, Ph.D.**

Basic Science

Proposal

Grant Award – \$317,768

Proposal Title: Genes Involved in Spinal Cord Regeneration in Zebrafish

**Contact Information:**

Melitta Schachner, Ph.D.  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
W. M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience  
604 Allison Road, D-251  
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854  
732-445-2061  
[schachner@biology.rutgers.edu](mailto:schachner@biology.rutgers.edu)

**FELLOWSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS:**

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Tanya E. Borsuk**

Graduate Student Fellowship  
Grant Award - \$60,000

Proposal Title: QTL Mapping and Phenotypic Analysis of Dreher Suppressing Modifying Loci

**Contact Information:**

Tanya E. Borsuk  
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey  
Center for Advanced Biotechnology & Medicine  
679 Hoes Lane  
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854  
732-235-3393  
[borsuk@cabm.rutgers.edu](mailto:borsuk@cabm.rutgers.edu)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Ahryon Cho**

Graduate Student Fellowship  
Grant Award - \$60,000

Proposal Title: The Role of FK506-Binding Protein 8 in Mammalian Neural Patterning  
and Axon Guidance

**Contact Information:**

Ahryon Cho  
Princeton University  
Department of Molecular Biology  
Princeton, New Jersey 08544  
609-258-2914  
[acho@molbio.princeton.edu](mailto:acho@molbio.princeton.edu)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Margaret Julius**

Graduate Student Fellowship  
Grant Award - \$60,000

Proposal Title: A Novel Micromechanical Method for Controlling Microstructure in  
Nerve Grafts

**Contact Information:**

Margaret Julius  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Department of Chemical & Biochemical Engineering  
98 Brett Road  
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854

732-445-3660

[tikus@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:tikus@rci.rutgers.edu)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Hyuk Wan Ko**

Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant

Grant Award - \$100,000

Proposal Title: The role of Ciliogenesis and Cell Cycle Phase in Hedgehog Signaling  
During Embryonic Stem Cell Differentiation

**Contact Information:**

Hyuk Wan Ko

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